

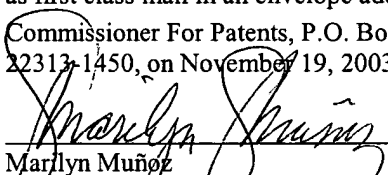
REMARKS

Applicants are amending the above referenced application in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 202(c)(6) regarding Federally sponsored research. Thus, no new matter has been added by amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendment prior to examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200 Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260	<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:</p> <p>Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 19, 2003</p>  Marilyn Muñoz
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